

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00513 010729Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 PC-01 MCT-01 SSO-00 CA-01 OC-06 CCO-00
FBOE-00 A-01 OMB-01 SY-05 /084 W
-----073198 011207Z /14

R 311540Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6040

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EC
SUBJ: POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN GUAYAQUIL

1. THE FIRST CASE OF DIRECT POLITICAL VIOLENCE TOOK PLACE IN GUAYAQUIL MARCH 29 WHEN AN ELDERLY CABINET MAKER WAS SHOT TO DEATH BY ONE OF A GROUP OF ABOUT TWENTY YOUTHS AT ABOUT 1:00 A.M. WHEN LEON BENIGNO DELGADO SALINAS TRIED TO STOP THE YOUTHS FROM PAINTING POLITICAL SLOGANS ON THE WALLS OF HIS HOME.
2. THE TEMPO OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IS PICKING UP RAPIDLY IF ONE CAN JUDGE BY THE NUMBERS OF SLOGANS BEING PAINTED ON ALL AVAILABLE WALLS, THOSE OF SIXTO DURAN BALLEEN BEING THE LARGEST, MOST NUMEROUS AND FANCIEST. OTHER CANDIDATES ARE BEING RELEGATED TO SMALLER PLACES OR PAINTING OVER EXISTING SLOGANS. PRIVATE PROPERTY IS BEING SUBJECTED TO THIS AS WELL AS PUBLIC AND CHURCH PROPERTIES.
3. THOUGH THIS KIND OF DEFACING OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY IS AGAINST THE LAW, THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES DECLINE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. WHEN I QUESTIONED THE

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MAYOR ABOUT THIS, HE SAID THE CULPRITS HAVE TO BE CAUGHT IN THE ACT. OBVIOUSLY SOME OF THE PAINTINGS ARE FAR TOO ELABORATE TO HAVE BEEN DONE IN THE DARK BY FLASHLIGHT AND MUST HAVE BEEN PAINTED DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS.

4. GUAYAQUIL NEWSPAPER "EL UNIVERSO" IN TODAY'S EDITION

IS TRYING TO WORK UP SOME OUTCRY AGAINST THE VIOLENCE MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE AND THE DESPOILING OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PROPERTY. A PHOTO SHOWS THE WALLS OF DELGADO'S HOME WHERE "SIXTO PRESIDENT" HAS BEEN "X'D" OUT AND "JPP- JUVENTUD PATRIOTICA" PAINTED OVER THE OTHER SLOGAN. ALSO A CARTOON SHOWING A PRIVATE CITIZEN WITH A CANNON STANDING OFF APPROACHING MEN WITH DRIPPING PAINT BUCKETS AND BRUSHES.

5. NONE OF THE POLITICAL LEADERS HAS AS YET SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE DEATH OF DELGADO AND PERHAPS NONE WILL, BUT IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE PAINTINGS WILL CONTINUE. FEW PRINTED POSTERS HAVE APPEARED; THAT WILL BE THE NEXT STEP IN THE DEFACEMENT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.
BISHTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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